



George
LeMieux
U.S. Senator *for* Florida

E- NEWSLETTER

Follow my updates throughout the week.

YouTube



NATIONAL DEBT = \$13,301,637,817,150.95 *
Debt per taxpayer (est.) = \$119,913
Concerned?

Attend our Fiscal Solutions Forum

Wednesday, August 11th at 11am in Orlando at UCF Executive Development Center

Wednesday, August 11th at 5pm in Tampa at Stetson University, Tampa Law Center

Our office, along with the Peter G. Peterson Foundation and the Concord Coalition, will engage in a timely and educational discussion about possible solutions to America's long term budget challenges titled "The Fiscal Solutions Forum." These events, hosted by the University of Central Florida and Stetson University, are free and open to the public. Space is limited so please RSVP to attend today at rsvpevent@LeMieux.senate.gov. For more information, please [click here to visit my website](#).

* - Total Public Debt Outstanding as reported by the U.S. Department of Treasury on 8/3/10.

Spurring Investment in Florida's Small Businesses

Florida's economy, though showing some signs of improvement, still needs help. As a small business state, our economy could be greatly helped if small businesses had access to the capital they need to grow their operations. Unfortunately, businesses with solid balance sheets are refused loans due to lingering economy uncertainty. That is why I am urging my colleagues to approve the Small Business Lending Act – an act to help main street bankers assist small businesses get the credit they need to survive and thrive.

The Small Business Lending act also includes more than \$12 billion in tax breaks for small businesses. What's more, the bill is paid for; it will not increase the U.S. debt or deficit. If we can prime the pump for small business growth, employers will hire more workers and we will hopefully see our overall economy improve.



I remain committed to working toward passage of this legislation and doing what is right for our economy and our country.

Finding Job and Business Opportunities

I am committed to doing everything I can to help Floridians find work. This is why our office is co-hosting job fairs through the state. Click [here](#) to access our [Business Resources Page](#) on our website. Job seekers can learn more about job fairs, workforce training, and entrepreneurial opportunities on our [Job Fairs homepage](#).

So far, more than 2,000 Floridians have found work at our job fairs. If you are looking for work, I hope you will join us at one of our upcoming events.

Upcoming Events:

[Workforce Connection Counties Job Fair](#) – Thursday, August 19, 2010

[WorkNet Pinellas Professional Mixer](#) - Wednesday, September 8, 2010

F-22 Fighters to Florida

Last week, the Air Force announced its intention to send an additional operational squadron of F-22 Raptors to Tyndall Air Force Base. This is great news for the Panama City area and for all of Florida. The F-22 Raptor dual engine air-to-air combat fighter plane is the most advanced aircraft ever built.

With more than 580 jobs expected as a result of this move, both the base and area residents will benefit. This operational squadron will complement the existing F-22 training squadron currently operating out of Tyndall. In addition, Panama City has the resources available to welcome the additional economic activity this move will bring.

U.S. Needs More Proactive Approach toward Emerging Threats

In the Senate Armed Services Committee this week, I raised concerns about the international connections being formed between Venezuela and Iran. The U.S. must be proactive rather than reactive to potential terrorist threats coming from unstable, non-democratic areas in Latin America.



With everything else going on in the world, we have fallen behind on preventing the potential gathering storm of terrorist activity from growing in unstable parts of Latin America. The hemisphere is important to us not only from a trade perspective, but also from an emerging democracy perspective. The presence of these terrorist organizations gives me great cause for concern and more focus should be put on preventing those areas from becoming a hot-bed for terrorist activity.

Supreme Court Nomination Update

This week the Senate debated the nomination of Elena Kagan to serve as an Associate Justice on the United States Supreme Court. While Ms. Kagan is intelligent, articulate, and an accomplished public servant, I could not support her confirmation to a lifetime appointment on the nation's highest court.

One of the difficulties I found in assessing Ms. Kagan's judicial philosophy and view of the Constitution, is the limited body of work from which an appraisal can be made. Ms. Kagan has never been a judge so, in my view, she had an additional burden to prove she has the judicial temperament to serve appropriately in the role of a justice. Her academic record is devoid of writings on most legal and Constitutional disputes and a lack of responses to key legal questions during her confirmation hearing raised serious concerns with regard to her interpretation of the Constitution. My floor speech explaining my decision is below.



Casework Corner

As your senator, one of my primary goals is to make sure Floridians are well served by Federal agencies. From time to time, I will share accounts of how our office has helped a Floridian.

Recently, a veteran contacted our office for assistance resolving a records dispute with the Department of Veterans Affairs. The veteran was in the process of purchasing property in Florida but encountered difficulties during closing due to VA records indicating he was deceased.

The veteran contacted our office to discuss correcting the record. A caseworker from our office contacted the Department of Veterans Affairs with medical records provided by the veteran. The veteran's records sufficiently demonstrated that he was, in fact, still alive and living in Florida. The Department of Veterans Affairs promptly reviewed the records and issued a letter acknowledging their error. The veteran was subsequently able to complete his purchase and close on the real estate transaction.

If you are experiencing a problem with a federal agency, please contact our Orlando Regional Office by calling (407) 254-2573 to speak with a member of the Casework Department. The toll-free number for Florida residents is (866) 630-7106. To find out more about how my office can help you, go to my website at <http://lemieux.senate.gov> or stop by one of our scheduled Community Office Hours in your area.

Stay Informed

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly update - a brief summary of some of the more notable events during the last seven days. I hope you'll find this useful and informative. You can also follow my regular updates from Florida and Washington via [YouTube](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your United States Senator and I look forward to hearing from you. If you want to share this newsletter with a friend, sign them up today at <http://LeMieux.Senate.gov>.